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Campus to start Greek system next fall

School officials hope fraternities and sororities attract top-notch students and increase student involvement.

By Tom Harlan
Staff Writer

USF St. Petersburg is going Greek.
Beginning next fall, the university will allow Greek organizations to form chapters at USF St. Petersburg in an effort to attract more top-notch students and increase student involvement on its growing campus.

"We are ripe for the creation of Greek organizations on campus," said Charles Brown, USF St. Petersburg's associate vice president for student affairs and chief student affairs officer. "Our goal is to have four or five groups on campus by fall of next year."

To accomplish this goal, Brown said the university is researching member requirements of national Greek associations and getting alumni to support their effort to bring Greek organizations to campus. In addition, he said a Greek Life Task Force has been established to gain the support of the university community.

"The charge of the force is to plan and determine a plan of action for the introduction of Greek life and Greek organizations to our campus," said Nancy Coscia, director of student life. Coscia, who is co-chairing the task force with Cedric Howard, said the force will invite faculty, staff and students to participate in interdisciplinary social sciences, the future of Albert Whitted Airport

Citizens will soon decide the fate of the 75-year-old downtown airport.

By Matt Nelson
Editor In Chief

After more than a decade of debate and public discussion, the future of Albert Whitted Airport will finally be decided by St. Petersburg citizens Nov. 4 in the city's general election.

The airport, led by the Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society, is fighting efforts from the Citizens for a New Waterfront Park, an organization with more than 15,000 supporters intent on eliminating the airport all together.

The airport wishes to stay and implement its $38-million improvement master plan. In contrast, Citizens for a New Waterfront Park hopes to use half of the valuable land for a 60-acre park and other community uses.

While USF St. Petersburg officials have said they are interested in the matter, the university and new administration have yet to publicly support either group.

Karen White and administration have not

New bookstore has trouble keeping up with book orders

By Heather Pownall
Staff Writer

The campus bookstore, owned by industry giant Barnes & Noble, has some students and faculty frustrated with book-order delay. Nearly eight weeks into the semester, anticipated books are just now arriving.

When Scott Toscano was hired by Barnes & Noble to manage USF St. Petersburg's campus bookstore on Aug. 5, he had less than three weeks to prepare for the biggest rush of the year. He came to work on Tuesday, and by that Friday, he had already hired some of his nine-person crew.

But, most of them had never worked at a college bookstore before and they had to learn their jobs quickly.

Still, the bookstore wasn't prepared as students rushed to get their books at the start of the fall semester.

Cristina Gonzalez, a senior majoring in interdisciplinary social sciences, could only buy one of five textbooks she needed on the first day of classes.

Seven weeks later, she and dozens of USF St. Petersburg students and faculty were still waiting.

"I'm behind, and there isn't any

Homeless at Mirror Lake Library
Library provides shelter and diversion

See Greek Life on page 7

The demise or future of Albert Whitted Airport

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"I'm behind, and there isn't any
New bookstore isn't so Noble

Barnes & Noble is hoping for world domination, but students are suffering.

By Matt Nelson
Editor in Chief

You would think a tip-top organization like Barnes & Noble could handle a small, yet vital, bookstore at USF St. Petersburg. After seven weeks of classes, that wasn't the case. For a company who had faith not to buy it online- are left what they were doing. It's understandable to have a couple weeks of goof-ups because of new hires and a new system. But more than a month of them waiting until October to get them. It is rungs more than

meant to get it right.

As of Oct. 1, some students were still waiting for books. Students who ordered books in August shouldn't be waiting until October to get them. It is now mid-term and some students- who had faith not to buy it online- are left out in the cold while their instructors are forced to slow down to oblige the inadequacies of Barnes & Noble.

School officials call the partnership a win for everyone. That's true if you don't consider students and faculty part of the equation. The university is making money through the deal, but students are suffering. Also, before Bayboro Books, under

the Freedom of Information Act, received course book-lists for free from the university. However, now they must pay Barnes & Noble for that information. "It's not the money, it's the principle," said Mike Dixon, manager of Bayboro Books. "And we don't even know if the lists are right." Of course, the new bookstore is in business only to make profit. However, the university doesn't work that way. School officials need to look closely at this problem and listen to concerned faculty and students. There in no doubt that the campus bookstore will be better prepared come spring but only because everything went wrong the first time.

What will happen to the beloved Bayboro Bookstore?

Anyone who has seen the Tom Hanks movie You've Got Mail knows what could happen when a powerful bookstore moves in next to a smaller, more sincere bookstore.

The Bayboro Bookstore, located next to the Tavern, will be just fine. Typically, their prices are less anyhow. The competition between the two is healthy and hopefully the two will make each other stronger. That is, if Barnes & Noble plays fair.

The student-sponsored newspaper of USF St. Petersburg. Published every other Wednesday during the semester.

OPINION

National do-not-call list is unconstitutional

By Kristie A. Martinez
Guest Editorial

I can't stand telemarketers. I especially despise those who, after seeing that my last name is Martinez, greet me with, "Buenas noches. Soy Sandra de AT&T. ¿Me permite hablar con su mamá o su papá?"

But as much as I hate getting these calls - and as much as I loathe explaining to solicitors that I'm Filipino, not Hispanic - the Federal Trade Commission's national do-not-call list is unconstitutional. Laws applying to the controversy don't justify a complete ban on all telemarketing. The government and the FTC must clarify why they want the ban in place, and should find an alternative to a complete ban on all telemarketers' calls.

U.S. District Court Judge Edward Nottingham decided that the do-not-call list is unconstitutional because it bars all telemarketers - except those from political, religious and non-profit organizations - from calling consumers on the list. The law says that speech can't be restricted based on content alone. Nottingham ruled that the do-not-call list was a content-based restriction violating telemarketers' commercial free speech rights.

Judge Nottingham looked to a 1993 precedent to help him decide the fate of the do-not-call list. In the 1993 case, a ban on printed advertisements at a particular newsstand was declared unconstitutional because it applied to the ads only and not to the newspapers at the stand.

But consumers' rights to privacy should be considered as well as the telemarketers' rights. Although both the case of the do-not-call list and the 1993 case involve content-based restrictions, there is a major difference between calling a private residence and advertising at a newstand.

Calling people on their personal telephones is invasive and leaves consumers (especially those without caller ID) no choice about whether to receive the advertisement. At a newstand, consumers can accept or reject ads. People should have the same, if not more liberty at home. Furthermore, the government's reason for preserving the national do-not-call list isn't specific. Does the government want to prevent all telemarketers (except those from political, religious and non-profit organizations) from calling people on the list? Or does it want to prevent consumers from becoming victims of the false or misleading advertising of some telemarketers?

Because it is hard to tell what the government's specific interest is, it is also unclear whether banning the list advances this interest directly. Although it can be argued that the ban is narrowly tailored, discriminating against certain telemarketers and not others violates the criteria for legitimate restrictions on free speech.

The government has the power to regulate false, misleading and deceptive advertising, and ads for unlawful goods and services. Unless the do-not-call list specifically targets telemarketing that advances these criteria, the government can't touch telemarketers. Even if telemarketers did commit violations, a complete ban on all telemarketing is going too far.

A complete ban is unfair to telemarketers. No ban at all is unfair to consumers on the list.

The solution? Don't pick up the phone. And if you do, just say, "Nadie está aquí."
Tavern at Bayboro is more than a bar, it's a historical landmark

By Frankie Howley

Some people say that you will never meet anyone you are going to marry in a bar. "Well, that's not necessarily true," said Gavan Benson.

Benson, owner of the Tavern at Bayboro for the last 16 years, is proud to own a popular establishment that is more than just an average bar. It is where he met his wife, Sue, and where students and professionals alike go to unwind.

"People have been coming here for so long, they just keep coming and they bring friends," Benson said of the 22-year-old Tavern. "They like the food and the music. We provide a service to the campus."

For those who regularly go to the Tavern, most would consider Benson's response to be modest at best. It is not just the food, the music and the convenience that appeals to the customers. It is the comfort, the memories, and the people that matter the most.

"You can come here after working out and hang out with friends," said Kara Wilson, vice president of student government. "Gavan has great deals and is awesome to students."

Since September 1987, Benson has added his personal touch to the establishment that originally opened in November 1981. With walls adorned by collages and banners, memories are displayed for all to see. He provides live music, every Thursday and Friday night from 5 to 8 p.m., along with "Open Mic" on Wednesdays from 8 to 11 p.m. Whether it is his friendly smile or just the way he says "Cheers" when he hands customers their order, most attribute the Tavern's success to the man behind the bar.

"The Tavern is a success because of Kris Kelly and Gavan," said Ronnie Zepf, an employee of the Tavern for the past 15 years. "They're like Laurel and Hardy.

Homeless flock to library for shelter, diversion

By Donna Seif

A tropical storm Henri saturated downtown St. Petersburg, residents took shelter in their offices and homes, but for those without an office or home, a popular downtown haven is the Mirror Lake Public Library. Public being the key word.

As public buildings, libraries can turn no one away, and if it's raining or too hot, which is most of the time in the summer months, the homeless, sometimes as many as 30 people a day, take advantage of Mirror Lake's open door policy.

Some of the homeless blend in, but most are not the usual library patrons. It is their bags that show their identity. Usually, library patrons don't tote all their clothes or the remains of a loaf of bread. If the garbage bags or dirty, bulging backpacks don't give the homeless away, it's the odor, and library workers are not timid about complaining.

"Some days it's so bad you can barely stand it," said Jacqueline Archile, a Mirror Lake librarian since 2000. "Some people just feel unsafe with all the homeless around, but it's the smell that really repels them. Last week a woman complained to the librarian about the smell in the quiet room, and she (the director) had to go down there and spray air freshener. I feel for these people. I could be the same way tomorrow, but a bar of soap doesn't cost as much as a pack of cigarettes."

Library workers are no longer surprised to walk into the restroom and discover someone taking a sponge bath in a sink.

The homeless patrons create other problems. Garbage bags often block the walkways, which initiated a posted rule: "For safety reasons, all bags must be small enough to fit under chairs." A sleeping homeless person may occupy a chair for hours.

A local man and his wife used to feed them in the parking lot of the Mirror Lake Library, but a patron complained to the mayor about the troubles and the eyesore it caused. The couple plained to the mayor about the troubles and the eyesore it caused. The couple

By Donna Seif

... See Homeless on page 8

The happiness that Benson has brought to the people at the Tavern, over the past 16 years, finally caught up to him last December. After 13 years, Benson married his long-time friend Sue. Though he admits that they never thought of each other in that way, he still remembers how they met. "We met right here at this bar," Benson said. "She was one of those students that needed the noise to study. She drank iced tea and studied all the time. We were just buds."

Even though they gradually began to hang out more, they eventually went their separate ways and dated other people. "She traveled around the world," Benson said. "She was in France. I even took my old girlfriend to France with me to see her."

Once she moved back, things began to change for the both of them and the rest is history. Since then, business at the Tavern has been doing great. "Sue has good and fresh ideas," Benson said. "She can look at something and give a new take on it."

Most customers would agree that the Tavern will always be remembered for the memories and for the contributions the Tavern has made to local charities.

Benson also gives to charity and makes donations. "Our biggest charity is to the Ronald McDonald House," Benson said. "At least two or three times we have made cash donations. We made dinners for them. We've sent baskets for parents and kids, as well as other items.

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Free newspapers for Tampa, not St. Petersburg

Where are all the newsstands?
USF Tampa students get free copies of the St. Petersburg Times, but students at USF St. Petersburg have trouble even buying a copy.

Heather Pownall
Staff Writer

Under a new agreement between USF and the St. Petersburg Times, students and visitors to USF Tampa's campus can get their daily Times for free. In St. Petersburg, USF students have to leave campus to buy a copy.

Kyle Johns, a USF St. Petersburg nursing major, picks up his paper some mornings when he stops at St. Pete Bagel Company. "I think it's important to know what's going on, so I bring the paper with me," Johns said. "I find it annoying that I have to walk far out of my way to get a newspaper."

About 4,500 students attend USF St. Petersburg, but there is only one St. Petersburg Times newsstand, and it is located on privately-owned property near Bayboro Books.

Across the bay, a new five-year deal makes the St. Petersburg Times accessible to students and faculty at USF Tampa, providing more than 600,000 papers on campus each semester, said Tom Veit, USF Tampa's associate athletic director.

The exclusive sponsorship agreement was made possible when a contract expired recently between USF's department of athletics and the Tampa Tribune.

Now, the St. Petersburg Times is "the official newspaper of USF Athletics," and the deal gives the Times exclusive print media rights at Tampa athletic facilities, as well as signage, scoreboard exposure and its own gate at the Sun Dome, according to a university press release.

As part of the trade, the Times has already planted more than 20 stands with free newspapers on Tampa's campus. And, although the Times deal is with USF Athletics, the newspapers are accessible to the entire USF Tampa community.

"This sponsorship gives us a chance to recruit a new generation of readers as they are moving from college into their careers, and it advances the Times' position as the newspaper for Tampa Bay," said Paul Tash, the Times editor and president.

In St. Petersburg, just blocks away from the Times headquarters, a new generation of readers has been left out of the deal.

So far, there are no plans to provide newspapers free-of-charge at USF St. Petersburg. "It would take campus administrators sitting down with the Times to figure out how such a deal could be mutually beneficial," said Kerry O'Reilly, Times deputy marketing director.

O'Reilly said the Times is always open to providing more newspaper racks where they are allowed. But, he said it's up to school administrators to approve the use of campus space.

In its 35 years, USF St. Petersburg has never had newstands on campus, and administrators aren't sure what the demand is for them, said Abdul Nasser, associate vice president of finance and administration.

Why not?
"That's a very good question," Nasser said. "I don't know why we haven't had them in the past, but I'm sure somehow we could figure out a way to get stands on campus," he said. "It just depends on the demand."

Michael Killenberg, director of the department of journalism and media studies, a program of distinction at USF St. Petersburg, said, "Students here, especially journalism students, would benefit from having free copies of the Times available on campus."

"We use the Times to show examples of good stories in class. We encourage students to read the paper, and many of our students work part-time at the Times," Killenberg said. "Having it here would be beneficial for students, for the campus and for the newspaper."
With a $7-million budget on campus, the Physical Plant at USF St. Petersburg took a huge cut this year. Although the numbers reach into the high thousands, Ron Bugg, director of physical operations, is not too concerned.

Budget cuts began in July with a 3 percent reduction for the department. This reduction caused a loss of three custodians and two mechanics. One mechanic is retiring and his position will not be filled, while the other position was cut at the end of last year. Bugg knew this position was going to be cut because the university operates it.

Max Kerlin, budget director. The main reason for the cut was because it had the most money. Grounds maintenance was cut slightly, but did not affect the numbers. The custodial coordinator has a new way to buy supplies, so the money lost in utilities will not directly affect this area.

"The numbers sound so big because we have the biggest budget on campus," Bugg said.

At the beginning of the new fiscal year, the campus had some money left over and asked the physical plant what positions were needed.

"Some money was lost, but the physical plant went through a restoration period," Kerlin said. "It was a pretty thorough process."

Physical Plant was able to rehire one custodian and filled the heating, ventilation and air conditioning position.

"We still have a net loss, but not as bad as it could have been," Bugg said.

With extra funding, the campus was able to keep its other personal service open to the campus. Bugg hopes these temporary workers will remain with USF through the fiscal year.

USF Tampa lost most of its custodians and staff, causing students to dump their own trash.

"We love the funding, but expenses is what we are really hurting," he said.

Bugg, a 19-year employee at USF, has survived similar cuts. The money always seems to come back, he said. The physical plant is already working on the budget for next year.

"We try to do the best we can with what they give us to work with," Bugg said. "So far, we've been doing okay."

Barnes & Noble manages more than 500 campus bookstores across the country, and they have resources the university did not have when it managed the bookstore. Sue Sotema, USF's budget officer, said Barnes & Noble will be able to service the community in St. Petersburg much better than the bookstore could when the university operated it.

Sotema, who served on a committee that decided to lease USF's bookstores to Barnes & Noble, said the university was "dazzled" by what Barnes & Noble might be able to do for USF.

There are plans to erect a building at Third Street S. and Fifth Avenue S. that will contain a Barnes & Noble retail store, a parking garage and USF administrative offices. Until the retail store is built, Barnes & Noble will spend $60,000 to remodel and spruce up the existing campus bookstore. It will also install its proprietary software, Text-Aid, on the bookstore's computers that will help employees place orders and keep track of inventory.

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Local music conference showcases Bay Area bands

By Jason Merritt
Staff Writer

L eaning toward national recognition, local musicians unite and hold their first annual conference in downtown St. Petersburg.

With recognition in mind, the Southeast Music Conference has decided to follow suit with other nationally known music scenes by hosting a conference to highlight the talent found in the area. They will be hosting the SMC Oct. 17-18 in downtown St. Petersburg.

The Southeast Music Alliance was formed in the summer of 2002 by a group of local musicians to see an opportunity to expand Tampa Bay's original music scene. A few bands started trading merchandise, e-mail lists and links to each other's websites, but the Alliance quickly took on a bigger role.

Since its inception, the SMA has increased its membership from a handful of artists and bands, to over 30 active members.

Last winter the SMA released a 21-track compilation CD that featured the best artists the Tampa Bay original music scene had to offer. This compilation had been their biggest venture to date, but the conference changes that.

The conference will feature 30 local artists, as well as a few national acts including John Doe (from X), Drive By Truckers and punk favorites Against Me. Bands will perform at various venues along two blocks of Central Avenue throughout both days.

The conference will also feature a music industry panel discussion with representatives from Atlantic Records, Clear Channel Communications, the St. Petersburg Times and others.

**$25 for one-day pass, $25 for two-day pass**

For more information, go to www.smflorida.com

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USF St. Petersburg celebrates SuperBull VII

By Vanessa Espinar
Staff Writer

M any children from all walks-of-life have behavior problems. Understanding why they do so has been questioned since the beginning of modern psychology. However, a researcher at USF St. Petersburg has his own theory.

In the inaugural psychology lecture at USF St. Petersburg, Mark Durand, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, discussed his research about children with behavior problems.

Durand, who has also studied children with disabilities, said that possible causes of challenging behavior are attention, escape, tangible and sensory. If a child misbehaves in order to get attention, for example when the phone rings, he might start acting up so he can get attention from his mom. If the child misbehaves as an escape, she might start acting up when the teacher asks her a question she cannot answer.

Therefore, he or she misbehaves in order to get away from that situation. Wanting a tangible, such as a candy bar at the supermarket, is another reason for challenging behavior. If a kid misbehaves for sensory reasons, he or she might hit themselves just because it looks right for them to do so.

Durand stressed the importance of doing assessments on the child to find out the cause of the behavior and to rule-out other possible causes, such as a sleep disorder. He said that when he and his team do interventions, they teach the kids other alternatives and let them know that what they want is okay.

However, it's not okay the way they are trying to get it. One example he gave was of a kid who became frustrated when he couldn't do something and started misbehaving as a way to escape the situation. During behavior problems later in life. Teaching parents positive intervention tactics can help make the audience included faculty, students and people from the community. "He made it accessible to everyone. I think parents got valuable help," said Van Hillard, a psychology professor. "Everybody benefits if a discipline can communicate to the community in general."

Durand's lecture integrated many anecdotes and humor, something people in the mixed audience appreciated. "It was interesting, informative and it didn't drag on," said Christina Greene, a freshman majoring in business.

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“In addition to enhancing campus life, Brown hopes bringing Greek organizations to USF St. Petersburg will draw students to the university. “Campus life is the key to recruiting good students to a campus,” he said. “Students don’t go to the University of Florida only because of its academic reputation.” Brown said campus activities, organizations and facilities draw students to a university. For example, UF has football games, Greek life and a student union to encourage students to enroll in the university. “They have those kinds of things to draw students,” he said. “I think every little extra piece you have to show that your campus really wants students is a plus in the recruitment process.” Brown said that incoming students frequently visit university websites and compare academic programs. “If two academic programs are excellent, and this school has big time football, Greek life and an excellent Overseas study program... where do you think the student is going to go?” he said. “We have a niche market, but I think our students are looking for some of those little things.” Besides bringing fraternities and sororities to campus, Brown said the university has other plans on the drawing board to improve student life. Building a student union, resident hall and new bookstore are among them.

“We want an entree of things that students can choose from,” he said. “The Greek option is just one of many options that we want to create on the campus.” Coscia said Greek life offers a different opportunity for a growing student body.

“There is a different kind of student that is interested in a Greek letter organization than may be interested in the Student Business Organization or the Student Education Association,” she said. “The reality is that we now have 4,600 students, so we need to be offering [a lot more] and we are heading towards 8,000 or 10,000.” Coscia said the university started intramural sports last fall and future steps, like adding Greek organizations, are needed to offer involvement opportunities across the spectrum.

“We want to make sure all our bases are covered, and any student that comes here has a wide variety of options for participation and involvement on campus,” she said. “This is the next step forward.”
Albert Whitted Airport remain open front park pass, which could very well happen, the amendment a compromise the university supports second, shall the airport receive and use grants for a "shall on which to vote."

However, that plan is not an option for voters. Voters have three separate charter amendments on which to vote, "Yes" or "No." The first is, "should Albert Whitted Airport remain open forever?" The second, shall the airport receive and use grants for a period of 20 years for airport improvement? The third, "shall (the city) create a new waterfront park, replacing the airport by 2017?"

All must receive a majority of the vote (52 percent or more) to pass. "If both the airport and the waterfront park pass, which could very well happen, the amendment with the most votes will win," said Baker. "But it could also go to a judge to decide."

Both sides have spent a lot of time and money on some rare occasions they even escalated to the point of calling the police. Archie said, "Sometimes they get mad when we wake them up or ask them to put their shoes back on, and they start yelling things, or they get mad at patrons and start yelling at them, things like, 'What are you looking at?' That's when we call the police."

Homeless people are fixtures in urban libraries, not only in downtown St. Petersburg, but all over the country. The Mirror Lake library workers agreed that they can easily tolerate homeless patrons most of the time. "If they come in smelling, getting their bags in the way and not utilizing the library properly, then we have a problem. Otherwise, it's okay with me," Archie said.

Albert Whitted Airport, from page 1

made any decisions regarding support, one way or the other," said Tim Baker, treasurer and a board member for the waterfront group.

But earlier this year, Ralph Wilcox, USFSP's former interim vice president and CFO, publicly stated the university supports St. Petersburg mayor Rick Baker's one runway plan. The single runway plan was a compromise between the airport and neighboring institutions like USF.

However, that plan is not an option for voters. Voters have three separate charter amendments on which to vote "Yes" or "No." The first is, "should Albert Whitted Airport remain open forever?" The second, shall the airport receive and use grants for a period of 20 years for airport improvement? The third, "shall (the city) create a new waterfront park, replacing the airport by 2017?"

All must receive a majority of the vote (52 percent or more) to pass. "If both the airport and the waterfront park pass, which could very well happen, the amendment with the most votes will win," said Baker. "But it could also go to a judge to decide."

Both sides have spent a lot of time and money on some rare occasions they even escalated to the point of calling the police. Archie said, "Sometimes they get mad when we wake them up or ask them to put their shoes back on, and they start yelling things, or they get mad at patrons and start yelling at them, things like, 'What are you looking at?' That's when we call the police."

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Some homeless shelters close their doors after serving breakfast and don't re-open until around 4 p.m. Thus, encouraging people to go out and sign up for food stamps, look for jobs and seek longer-term housing.

Homeless patrons do make the best of their time spent at the library. Although "Martha Stewart: Just Desserts" to "Eat More, Weigh Less." Colleen Smith, a Mirror Lake librarian, said, "These books can be taken from the library by someone with no ID or permanent address and can be returned at any time of the day."

"I've never been homeless, and my children have never been homeless in the library. Mainly, patrons are not allowed to sleep or panhandle at entrance doors."

Confrontations between librarians and homeless patrons are common. On some rare occasions they even escalated to the point of calling the police.

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